

SUNDAY

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Denials Of Cuban Aerial Support Silly

STATINTL

The recent denials of promised aerial support to the April 1961 Cuban invasion battalion by the Kennedy administration are as silly as the entire planning and execution of the invasion itself.

It is this writer's intention to factually prove how ridiculous are these denials by the representatives of the Kennedy administration, and to further show that these denials are not only silly, but they further compound the "felony" of abandoning the brave Cuban "Freedom Fighters" into the hands of the enemy.

When I was arrested on the Isle of Pines, Cuba, on April 17, 1961 by the Cuban revolutionary G-2 Intelligence police, two hours after I had sent out an Associated Press dispatch on the Cuban Radio-Telegraph system about the aerial attack and sinking of a Cuban navy ship at the port of Nueva Gerona Isle of Pines, we (Cubans and American residents) were elated over the operation, which had been so long promised and expected.

Before coming to the Isle of Pines from Havana the previous day, especially to cover this "invasion operation", I had witnessed, on Saturday morning, April 15, the aerial strafing and destruction of the Havana military airbase by the invasion fighters. I had reported this operation to the A.P. Havana office, and had further learned that three other Cuban Air Force bases had been knocked out, and that Castro's air force was left with only about seven fighter planes. This was later substantiated.

Everyone expected this invasion, but it was to have occurred at a later date, May Day, when Castro's revolutionaries were crowded into Havana thoroughfares and Castro was haranguing his Communist captives at the base of Marti's monument in the Civic Center.

The up-dated invasion operation worried this writer and others who were cooling our heels in the big Isle of Pines Presidio Modelo that first night as we were locked out on the concrete floor. But we were confident that a military operation of that magnitude, prepared and planned for by the CIA and the great military brains of

both the Eisenhower and Kennedy American Embassy. Hundreds of administrations against Castro's innocent people were shot and Communist fanatics, had to be killed and thousands tortured, terrorized and sentenced to 30 years in filthy jails. Over 100,000 Cubans have fled to the U. S. to be financed, fed, housed and clothed at the American taxpayers expense. And 5,000,000 more Cubans would like to escape their Communist captivity.

My knowledge of the plans and preparations for the invasion was acquired by my visits to Florida during the previous year.

I talked with some members of the 2506 Brigade, but I had divulged absolutely nothing of what I knew to anyone. And when I heard people in Cuba talking about the expected invasion I'd question them about it. There was widespread talk in Havana that the Kennedy administration was paying the exiles in Miami to join the invasion forces. The wife of a revolutionary friend, who was against Castro, told her husband in my presence that she wanted to go to Miami to join the invasion forces. He told her that he wouldn't send her any funds clandestinely as she wished, so she told him, "That doesn't matter, I'll get \$100 monthly from Mr. Kennedy." That was how well the plans and policies of the invasion activities were known in Cuba to everyone.

A few days after the shameful invasion fiasco, most of the more than 100 of my Cuban friends were freed, but some Americans and Cubans and I were sent to Havana jails to be further investigated by the G-2 Intelligence.

When I was brought before two young Communist interrogators they asked, among other things, what I thought about the invasion. I replied that it was foolish. Of course I didn't let them know what was in my mind, which was that after all the preparations and political promises during the presidential campaign of 1960 (that the Cuban exiles would be "back in a free Cuba soon"), now the brave Cuban "Freedom Fighters" were delivered into the hands of the Castro Communists, and were put on exhibition in the Havana Sports Palace like caged monkeys.

This disgraceful fiasco had caused the incarceration of about 300,000 men and women. Among them were hundreds of Americans. All the American news agencies were confiscated and their journalists were either in jails or hiding in the Swiss-controlled

both the Eisenhower and Kennedy American Embassy. Hundreds of administrations against Castro's innocent people were shot and Communist fanatics, had to be killed and thousands tortured, terrorized and sentenced to 30 years in filthy jails. Over 100,000 Cubans have fled to the U. S. to be financed, fed, housed and clothed at the American taxpayers expense. And 5,000,000 more Cubans would like to escape their Communist captivity.

And while the contradictory controversy goes on to remind us of a national disgrace, which was the incompetence of the CIA, the great Pentagon world military power, the State Department and White House diplomats and strategic technical planners, who admittedly knew what was going on from the Eisenhower administration's training of the Cuban "guerrilla warriors," and the Kennedy Administration's military preparation and on-the-spot naval task force surrounding Cuba at the time of the invasion, the aerial-support denials seem downright silly.

When Allen Dulles resigned from his post as director of the CIA he declared on a televised program that his reason for planning the invasion at that time was strategic: when Castro was in political "hot water" and his military forces were insufficient to throw back a well-organized invasion force. This statement convinced this writer that Dulles knew what he was talking about.

For a year before the ill-fated invasion, there were determined counter-revolutionary forces operating throughout Cuba to overthrow Castro. A 20,000-man battalion was fighting in the Escambray mountains. This writer received weekly reports from couriers who relayed messages to reach me every Friday night. These dispatches were immediately given to the Associated Press. At one time, during the period preceding the invasion, there were about 75,000 of Castro's troops deployed about the Escambray mountains.

Meanwhile there was much subversion and sabotage going on in Havana. Not a day passed without bombings of the Government department stores. There was also a tremendous well-organized "fifth-column" of the Catholic

down on them during the invasion week", so that some persons were jailed.

The foregoing facts and Dulles' declaration of his role in the CIA operation under President Eisenhower's mission of the training of exiles in "guerrilla warfare" Kennedy's Administration's role in the invasion operation and the payment of the more \$60 million ransom of the Brigade participants to good faith of the U.S. and plate its guilt in the invasion fiasco, prove beyond all doubt that the U. S. was responsible for the invasion.

Now, the pertinent question asked is: "What was the purpose of the military planning this invasion and the preparation of the Cuban exiles of the return to a Communist-free Cuba?" The principal arm of a successful invasion was not intelligence. Doesn't it all seem downright silly, the whole operation as well as the Air Force support?